Looting of foodgrains by PWG Naxals

519. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether naxals looted about 1000 bags of rice, wheat and sugar from Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh on 17th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether stock points are not guarded;

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking proper action as People's War Group issued a statement to the press about 10 days back regarding their plans to famine raids; and

(d) the policy of Government to protect Government properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No such incident of looting of foodgrains has been reported to the Government.

(d) The Food Corporation of India has its watch and ward staff to protect the foodgrains stocks and its property.

Subsidised items issued to Sikkim under PDS

520. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of people below the poverty line (BPL) and above the poverty line in Sikkim;

(b) what is the total quantity of subsidised Rice, Wheat and Kerosene Oil issued to the State under the PDS during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, year wise;

(c) what are the rate of these items, item-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that the CBI has filed chargesheet

against some FCI officials posted in Sikkim and Siliguri for diverting these items in open market and if so, what is the number of such officials; and

(e) whether there are connivance and involvement of Sikkim Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) As per the Planning Commission's estimates 0.34 lakh families are below poverty line and 0.48 lakh families are above poverty line in Sikkim on the basis of 1995 population. An economic survey is presently being conducted by the Govt. of Sikkim to identify the exact number of APL and BPL families in the State.

(b) Total quantity of subsidized Rice, Wheat and Kerosene Oil issued to the State of Sikkim under the PDS during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, year-wise are as under:—

Year	Allocation of Rice (in '000 tonnes)	Wheat (in '000 tonnes)	Kerosene Oil (in metric tonnes)
1997-98	77.380	5.680	7794
1998-99	87.720	10.680	7885
1999-2000	87.720	2.090.	7895

(c) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains with effect from 1.4.2000 are as under:—

Rice—For APL	Common/	Rs. 1137 per qtl.
	Grade 'A'	Rs. 1180 per qtl.
For BPL	Common/ Grade 'A'	Rs. 590 per qtl.
Wheat—For APL		Rs. 900 per qtl.
For BPL		Rs. 450 per qtl.

The ex-storage point price of PDS kerosene is Rs. 4.50 per litre *w.e.f.* the midnight of 22nd-23rd March, 2000.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. CBI has registered case No. RC-23(A)/98-Cal. against five officials of FCI posted in Sikkim and Siliguri. As reported by FCI, some private parties and State Government Officials were also involved.

Uniform price for essential commodities

521. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government during the last one year to control the prices of essential commodities;

(b) whether it is a fact that essential commodities are costing at huge variation of prices from one to the other corner of the country, States and even in different localities in a district;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) why there is no uniform price for essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Government has taken a number of steps to control the prices and augment the availability of essential commodities in the country. Apart from certain long term measures to increase production of essential goods, imports of items having gap in their demand and supply like pulses have been placed under OGL at zero per cent import duty. Export of onion has been placed under quantitative restriction. Some of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, palmolein, sugar and kerosene are also supplied through the outlets of public distribution system at below market prices. Stringent actions are being taken against hoarders, black marketeers and other indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act by the State/UT Governments.

(b) to (d) The prices of essential commodities generally show